

REMARKS

This paper amends independent claims 1 and 10. Claims 1-7, 9-17, and 19-21 remain pending. Independent claims 1 and 10 were rejected over Martensen in view of Miller and Jari.

Independent Claims 1 and 10

As amended, claim 1 now includes “the transition region terminating at first and second termination locations such that the first end is in a first axial direction immediately adjacent to the transition region and the second end is in a second axial direction immediately adjacent to the transition region.” Similarly, claim 10 now includes “the first end is in a first axial direction immediately adjacent to the transition region and the second end is in a second axial direction immediately adjacent to the transition region.”

The structure as claimed provides a loop structure that provides for more than one revolution around the loop and provides that the ends which join the transition region are in different axial directions. The amended language clarifies that the ends themselves, not portions of the transition, are thus provided in different axial directions. For example, as shown in Figure 2 of the present application, end 12 and end 14 are in different axial directions at their locations immediately adjacent to the transition region. This structure also allows for the portions of the rod-like members adjacent to the transition region to be provided in different directions such that the loop acts as a transition region from one direction to another direction.

It is respectfully noted, that in combination or singularly, neither Martensen nor Miller or Jarl provide the claimed structure. The Office Action cites Miller for providing a transition region that has a loop and that has ends in different axial directions. However, it is respectfully noted that the regions of the rod-like members of Miller that are immediately adjacent to the loop region are in fact in the same axial direction (i.e. using the nomenclature of the Office Action with reference to Figure 4 of Miller the first loop on the left has the regions of the rod-like member adjacent to the loop which are in the North-South axial direction). Thus, the amendments provided herein distinguish such structures. With reference to Martensen, a loop is

not provided. Further with reference to Jarl, the loops do not transition between two different regions as the structure of Jarl terminates at the loop.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that there is no suggestion to combine the structure of Jarl with Miller or Martensen. Not only is there no explicit suggestion to combine, but further, the structure of Jarl is not even a landscape border segment. For example, Jarl provides a structure for holding a hose or for use as a marker. It is respectfully submitted that there is no suggestion to utilize the loops of Jarl with landscape border or fencing structures.

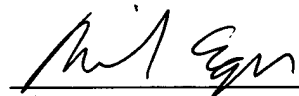
As such, it is respectfully submitted that as combined, the cited combination still lacks the claimed elements of independent claims 1 and 10 and each claim depending therefrom.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and Notice of Allowance are courteously solicited.

The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number indicated below with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate expeditious and compact prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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